LETTERS

TO

A PRINCE,

FROM

A MAN OF KENT.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. RICHARDSON,

AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

MDCCLXXXIX.

[Price One Shilling and Sixpence.]

LETTERS

TO

A PRINCE,

FROM

A MANUSCRIPT.

BRITISH MUSEUM

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. RICHARDSON,

AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

MDCCLXXVII.

[Price One Shilling and Sixpence.]

LETTERS, &c.

SIR,

I KNOW the reſpect due to a Prince, and ſhall pay it. I know alſo the rights which belong to a Man and an Engliſhman, and ſhall claim them; not rudely petulant, nor meanly obſequious.

It is the glory of the country over which you are to rule, that every member of it is allowed to divulge his ſentiments with decent freedom. I avail myſelf of the noble privilege, and confide that you will not be diſpleaſed at the exerciſe of that liberty which it is your duty to preſerve.

But I will not diſgrace myſelf and my cauſe by addreſſing you with an unbecoming fami-

liarity. No rudeneſs of language, no wanton illiberality of cenſure, ſhall pollute my page. While I uſe the liberty which a Briton may juſtly aſſume, I feel the reſpect due to the guardian of it.

It is your fortune to poſſeſs a rank which enables you to promote the happineſs of millions. It is in your power to diſpenſe bleſſings to mankind as a SUPERIOR BEING; and if you ſhould alſo have it in your will, believe me, Sir, the happineſs you diffuſe will be reverberated on your own boſom in the delicious feelings of conſcious benevolence, and the returns of love from a grateful and united people.

I feel, in common with the whole nation, an anxious deſire that you ſhould be, in the moſt expreſſive ſenſe, a PATRIOT KING; that you ſhould deviate from the beaten orbit of petty ambition, and glow with a deſire of becoming, in your generation, the glory of your own people, and the delight of the human race.

I have cheriſhed an honeſt wiſh, that you ſhould not be confounded, in the annals of your country, with thoſe inſignificant princes, who are marked only by the arithmetical num-

bers

bers which diſtinguiſh the order of ſucceſſion. Deem me not a viſionary, if I have entertained a hope that you may one day take your ſeat by the ſide of an ALFRED. The age of heroic virtue ſeems, indeed, to be long elapſed; but it is in the power of a prince, a Britiſh prince, to reſtore it.

Under the influence of a zeal at once ardent and friendly, at the avowal of which I need not bluſh, I have preſumed to addreſs you at this critical conjuncture. I am ſenſible that to ſtep forward from the ranks of private life, to give advice to a prince, is liable to the charge of preſumption. The names of folly and impertinence may be contemptuouſly beſtowed upon it. A thouſand obſtacles may impede the progreſs of my addreſſes to your ear; a thouſand prejudices counteract their effect. Few of thoſe who furround your perſon will be willing to obtrude them on your notice; and I entertain but a faint expectation, that, amidſt the multitude of other avocations, they will of themſelves attract your immediate attention. Yet, in this forlorn proſpect, I am emboldened to proceed by the poſſibility, that, at ſome future and favourable moment, they may ſuggeſt ſome ſalutary admonition. This hope is ſufficient

ficient to animate one who, with the beſt intentions, and the moſt unfeigned truth, ſubſcribes himſelf,

Your moſt humble, &c.

LETTER II.

SIR,

IT is the obſervation of a great ſtateſman and orator of Athens, that no man can entertain noble ſentiments who is converſant in mean employments. Elevated rank, like yours, demands an elevation of mind correſponding to the rank; and it is neceſſary that princes ſhould avoid all amuſements, all purſuits, all occupations, however innocent in a moral ſenſe, *which degrade them in the eyes of the people*; much more thoſe levities (to give them a *ſoft* appellation) which have a natural tendency

dency to pollute the heart, to contract the underſtanding, and to ſink, in the littleneſs of perſonal inſignificancy, the princely character.

Princes, indeed, poſſeſſing, in common with other men, activity of mind, are more than other men expoſed, from the plenitude of their power, to the indulgence of fantaſtic propenſities. In purſuit of new diverſions and untried gratification, they have been known to deſcend to the loweſt ſociety, and the vulgareſt modes of plebeian enjoyment. They have thus not only loſt, in the opinion of their ſubjects, the ſplendid eminence, which their birth appointed them, but have become contemptible as MEN, conſidered independently of all civil diſtinction.

That decent pride, therefore, that perſonal dignity, that rational ſelf-eſteem, which is a preſervative, among all orders, from the diſgrace of ſelf-abaſement, is worthy of being cheriſhed with ſingular care in the boſom of a prince.

He ſhould aſſociate with the firſt characters in the firſt rank of hereditary or acquired nobility. I mean by acquired nobility, the nobility of virtue. If he condeſcends to admit the lower orders to familiarity, the inducement

ſhould

ſhould be the ſtrong recommendation of ſound talents, valuable acquirements, and experienced merit. That mean jealouſy, which has ſometimes cauſed princes to ſhun illuſtrious virtue, leſt their own importance ſhould be diminiſhed by its approximation, ſhould be indignantly diſcarded. From a free converſe with men of parts and principle united, a prince will catch an emulation of excellence. Light will be darting upon him even from the caſual colliſion of ſuch minds with his own. His rank, his power, his patronage, and his ſmiles, will call forth the exertion of their beſt abilities for his entertainment. In the reſult, he will find that their opinions, their aſſiſtance, the contagion of their virtue, will add to his character a weight and dignity which the hereditary poſſeſſion of the moſt ſplendid crown in Europe can never beſtow without it.

His hours of privacy ſhould be devoted to PRINCELY, to manly pleaſures and employments, to the ſtudy of philoſophy, the contemplation of the fine arts, the pleaſures of polite letters, and, above all, to the luxury of DOING GOOD.

His hours of public activity will be conſecrated to the promotion of national happi-

neſs

neſs by every poſſible mode. His formal and official employments muſt of neceſſity fill much of his time. The reſt will be conſecrated to the invention and improvement of beneficial laws, the encouragement of learning, manufactures, commerce, and agriculture. All theſe will be duly promoted by a perſonal, ocular examination of excellence, by favour impartially ſhewn to individuals who have advanced them, by a patronage afforded to merit independently of intereſted recommendations, and the wretched bias of a borough intereſt.

A prince thus employed will riſe above his throne. His ſatisfaction will riſe in proportion. His heart will glow with ſentiments worthy of the rank in which his birth and his virtues ſhall have placed him. The Engliſh nation will love him as a father, and pay him every degree of adoration on this ſide of idolatry. His popularity will be unbounded, and let him exult in the conſcioufneſs of deſerving it. Thus loved, thus honoured by his people, and admired by the world, let him compare himſelf with the degraded character of one who is born, indeed, a prince, but who degrades himſelf by *unprincely* conduct, till he becomes deſpiſed by all but drunkards, gameſters, and

paltry adventurers, the mean and ſervile herd who crowd around a throne, and would convert the palace of a Britiſh king into the effeminate court of a SARDANAPALUS. Let him, I ſay, form the compariſon and glory in his choice. I appeal to him not merely as a prince; but as a man, a man of ſenſe, and a man of honour.

I am, &c.

LETTER III.

SIR,

IT is your ſingular felicity, that the country over which you are to preſide, affords uncommon encouragement for virtue in her princes. The people are confeſſedly generous in the extreme. Their attachment to a good prince is ardent and inviolable. It ariſes not, as in France, from the narrow prejudices of education,

cation, and the artifices of ſelfiſh politicians, but from the feelings of the heart operating with rational conviction. They love their monarchy, limited as it is by ſalutary laws, and naturally diſplay their love of it, in a perſonal attachment of the higheſt degree, to him who conducts it with propriety. A king of England, thus reigning in the affections of his people, becomes the moſt enviable individual in the univerſe.

May you early feel the ambition of reigning in an empire ſo glorious as the hearts of ſuch a people. It is, Sir, an ambition the moſt eaſily gratified in your ſituation. Act only with impartial, liberal benevolence, act with dignity, act with ſpirit, and you are enthroned in their boſoms for ever. The people of England are confeſſedly an honeſt, open, and ſincere, as well as a generous people. It is their national character; and with their national character they wiſh to ſee their leaders adorned. For the ſupport and aggrandizement of leaders ſo adorned, there is no ſacrifice, either of blood, or treaſure, which they are not ready to make, in a good cauſe, with eager alacrity.

Think what it is, Sir, to be at the head of ſuch a people! Contemplate and duly appre-

ciate the value of ſo proud a preeminence. A degree of happineſs and glory hitherto unknown to any king or kingdom on earth may be the conſequence of your juſt ſenſe of it. Under the auſpices of a prince who duly underſtands and uſes his advantage AN ÆRA OF POLITICAL FELICITY may ariſe, which the hiſtory of the world could never yet exhibit.

The object is moſt magnificent. Let a view of it vivify every germ of patriotiſm, and brace every cord of virtue about your heart! May the riſing generation ſee the Alexanders, the Cæſars, the Charles's, and the Lewis's, hide their diminiſhed heads in the preſence of GEORGE THE FOURTH OF BRITAIN!

I own I feel a degree of enthuſiaſm at the idea. Blame it not; for it is the enthuſiaſm of benevolence. I hope you will ſympathize with me; for nothing truly great was ever achieved without an ardour of enterprize approaching to that enthuſiaſm which the narrow politicians and the pert witlings of a corrupted court will not fail to deride.

I am, Sir, &c.

LET-

LETTER IV.

SIR,

IN private life, the influence of example has a wonderful effect on all who view the perſon who exhibits it in the light of a ſuperior; but, in private life, the influence, though great, is circumſcribed by limits comparatively narrow. The example of a prince has an unbounded operation. The multitude reaſon inconcluſively, and infer the rectitude of an action from the rank of the actor. Young men are particularly prone to follow a path illuminated by the brilliancy of grandeur, though it lead them to error, and plunge them in diſgrace. The manners of a riſing generation are thus deeply corrupted by the example of a bad prince, and none can ſay to what extent the miſchief ariſing from it may ultimately proceed. It is an old obſervation of the poet of Auguſtus, that the people are modelled by the pattern of the prince.

It becomes a prince, then, from motives of humanity, if others failed, to avoid the exhibition of a corrupt example, which the herd of the people may conſider as a ſanction for their depravity. However, in high life, the enormities of vice may be juſtified by minute philoſophers, or laughed at by libertines as venial indulgences, they become, in the lower orders, the certain cauſes of poverty and ſhame, of pain and death.

The wiſdom of our forefathers has provided public teachers of morality, and enacted ſtrict laws for its ſupport among the people. Proclamations have been recently iſſued for the diſcouragement of vice; but what would they avail, if they were to be counteracted by the flagrant example of him who co-operates in promulgating the law and in iſſuing the proclamation? In ſuch a caſe, both the law and the proclamation would be immediately conſidered by the cunning plebeian of an enlightened age, as the mere mockery of knaves, the crafty tricks of politicians, and the ſolemn farce of the ſtate-hypocrite. Thus, inſtead of ſerving the cauſe of virtue, they would injure, by inſulting it.

External decency of character is deemed an in-

indiſpenſable qualification for a biſhop and a judge. Muſt they not be more deſirable in the prince? in him who appoints both the biſhop and the judge, and who is denominated the fountain of honour, the defender of the faith, over all cauſes, eccleſiaſtical as well as civil, SUPREME?

Unerring perfection in a prince none are ſo unreaſonable as to expect; for as he is a partaker of humanity, he ſhares its frailties. For the indulgence of theſe he is amenable to the King of Kings alone. But whenever he flagrantly, openly, and vain-glorioufly violates the eternal laws of right, and offends alſo againſt *public decorum*, he is guilty of a crime againſt that country which he was born to protect, and millions may be involved in the wretched conſequences, by the faſcinating power of his example, which, in ſuch an inſtance, may be ſaid to ſhine with the luſtre of putrefaction.

On the other hand, his *good* example produces effects unſpeakably beneficial. Like the ſun on vegetation, it cauſes the buds of virtue to expand, and produce valuable, beautiful, abundant fruits throughout the nation. Riches, internal ſtrength, induſtry in arts, courage in

arms

arms, obedience to laws, univerſal peace and order; theſe are the natural and neceſſary effects of national virtue raiſed by the foſtering influence of a prince's example.

If then a prince ſhould unfortunately have been ſeduced in his early youth into errors of a moſt malignant tendency, he will retrieve them as ſcon as he enters into public and official life, and not heſitate to expreſs his marked diſapprobation of a miſconduct in himſelf, which in his miniſters, his judges, his churchmen, his meaneſt ſubjects, he could not but reprobate. Such a converſion, attended with ſuch a behaviour, would be a vote in favour of virtue which a generous nation would not fail with one hand and heart to applaud and to remunerate with unbounded love, loyalty, and confidence.

I am, Sir, &c.

LET-

LETTER V.

SIR,

IF I were required to point out the diſpoſition the moſt valuable in a prince, I ſhould not heſitate to name PHILANTHROPY. This will naturally produce that conduct which cauſes a king to be conſidered, as the ſhepherd of his people, and the father of his country. Patriarchal ideas, heroic names theſe! ſuch as are now chiefly uſed to embelliſh a ſchoolboy's declamation; but which, nevertheleſs, I hope to ſee reſtored under your auſpices, by the benevolence of your intentions, carried into action by the wiſdom of your counſels.

The principles of philanthropy, I think, innate; but the good ſeed is too often choked by the weeds of ſelfiſhneſs before it can vegetate. Care is, therefore, neceſſary to preſerve the principles in their tender, germinating ſtate; and you will experimentally find, that they are worthier of preſervation than the jewels of your crown,

May I be pardoned, if I venture to ſuggeſt a few ideas on the means of cheriſhing in your boſom the ſentiments of philanthropy, or on thoſe practices which endanger its extinction?

All diverſions and ſpectacles which partake of cruelty, or encourage it in the ſmalleſt degree, ſhould be avoided by a prince cultivating philanthropy, not only for the ſake of humanity to others, but becauſe they have a tendency to harden the heart of the beholder by accuſtoming him to the contemplation of diſtreſs without compaſſion. A man's nature may be tremblingly alive to the fineſt feelings of ſympathy; yet the habit of deriving diverſion from ſuffering objects will ſuperinduce a callus on his heartſtrings. It may do more: it may teach him to delight not only in the ſight, but in the infliction of pain. Remember, Sir, the examples of Nero and Domitian. They have no reſemblance to you, indeed; but I cite them as obvious inſtances of the degeneracy to which human nature may arrive by ſeeking diverſion in cruel exhibitions. Let the prince who ſhudders at the atrocious vices which ſtigmatized the Roman emperors in the decline of Rome, early diſcourage, by every poſſible mode, ſuch public ſpectacles as bear

the

the leaſt reſemblance to the ſavage ſport of the gladiatorial combats.

In ſeeking to improve his benevolent affections, a prince will cheriſh ſentiments of pity even for the beſtial train, which Providence has rendered ſubſervient to his pleaſure and accommodation. He will be cautious of urging the generous quadruped beyond his ſpeed and ſtrength; and will abhor the idea of recompencing his noble exertions by anguiſh unutterable, and a premature death attended with extreme agony. Such cares may at firſt ſight appear trifling; but nothing is trifling, which contributes to harden the heart of him, who is to bear rule over the people.

In the cultivation of his philanthropy, a prince will ſometimes be led to conſider, that, in all circumſtances, but the adventitious one of civil rank, he is on a level with other men. Subject to pain, to diſeaſe, to INSANITY, to a thouſand accidents which may abbreviate his exiſtence, or render it a torment; ſubject to the great law of nature, which will certainly involve him in diſſolution with the beggar, he will learn ONE IMPORTANT LESSON. He will learn to uſe his power and the unſpeakable advan-

tages of his ſituation, in executing the purpoſes of PRINCELY PHILANTHROPY. He will learn to delight, not in petty, ſelfiſh, vicious employments; but in ſuch activity, as tends to promote good and diminiſh evil, of every kind, and in every degree, as far as the one is to be promoted, and the other diminiſhed, by the efforts of a mortal. He will ſee the equity of exerciſing himſelf in acts of mercy and kindneſs, when he feels that he may ſtand in need of ſuccour, before the lapſe of the next hour, and will certainly want the aſſiſtance of others, when that day ſhall come, as come it will, on which he alſo is to ſuffer, and to die.

Perhaps it might be conducive to the preſervation and improvement of philanthropy, if he were to ſtop ſhort in the warm career of pleaſure, and examine himſelf, whether, while he is eagerly ſeeking perſonal gratification of the ſenſual and lower kind, his kindneſs for others, his generoſity, his ſympathetic feelings, are not on the decline. If he finds this to be the caſe, as he probably may, ſince it is the nature of the ſenſual *exceſſes* to deſtroy every generous diſpoſition, let him reject the mean and ſelfiſh plan of private luxury, and

acquire a taſte for the noble and liberal delight of contributing to the happineſs of thoſe whom he is bound, by all that is ſacred, to protect.

It may contribute to foſter the principles of general benevolence, if, not ſatisfied with contemplating life on the gayer ſide only, he ſhould condeſcend, for the wholeſome purpoſe of mental medicine, to viſit the manſions of miſery, the houſe of mourning, the priſon, the hoſpital, the mine, the cottage of the labourer, the poor, and the aged: the ſight will meliorate his heart, and improve his *fellow feeling* for his *fellow creatures*, which is in danger of being injured or loſt, in the unvaried ſplendour of a palace. He will thus acquire a juſt idea of human nature and its miſery, which would never be taught him by the flatterers who ſurround him for their own ſelfiſh ends, for the indulgence of their pride and luxury, and with the hope of political advancement. It is not in ſuch company, that a prince will ever learn that important knowledge, the knowledge of himſelf and thoſe committed to his charge.

For this purpoſe, he muſt ſurvey the chequered ſcenes of many-coloured life. He muſt enter, for a time, into the views and ſentiments of the very loweſt orders of his ſubjects, to

judge

judge of their wants, and to underſtand, in their full extent, his own duties. Princes often err from an ignorance occaſioned by a partial acquaintance with their own people. They ſee little elſe around them but ſcenes of grandeur, magnificence, and profuſion. To become PHILANTHROPISTS, they ſhould feel in imagination the miſery of want and all the diſtreſſes of life. They often ſtudy horſes and hounds with peculiar attention. Let them ſtudy MAN.

Poſſeſſed of a knowledge and a love of his ſubjected fellow creatures, a prince will learn to behold himſelf moſt intimately related to every individual in his empire. His benevolence will graſp them all, as men; his duty, as ſubjects; and his mode of government will be, as it ought, like that of a father over his children, compounded of love and ſalutary coercion.

A ROYAL PHILANTHROPIST, in the extent in which I have deſcribed the character, has not often bleſſed the eyes of mankind. Your glory, in becoming ſuch, will be the more illuſtrious.

I am, Sir, &c.

LET-

LETTER VI.

SIR

TO make a favourable impreſſion on firſt aſſuming the ſceptre, contributes much to the felicity of a reign. But this is not to be effected by artifice, by largeſſes to the vulgar, by plauſible profeſſions, or by the venal encomiums of a proſtituted newſpaper. Obſervation is too vigilant, the minds of a whole people too penetrating, to be long deceived by the political hypocriſy of a prince and his faction. Meaſures ſincerely well intended, and wiſely executed, muſt be purſued with conſtancy, in order to ſecure to you the public favour.

The prejudices which once rendered royalty honourable and formidable, independently of perſonal merit, are now no more. No ideas prevail of right divine, or the ſanctity of kings. The light of ſcience and philoſophy has cauſed the phantoms, which frightened men in the miſts of ignorance, to vaniſh. People of all ranks, in the preſent age, read and think, and are no longer to be deluded by the pageant of Majeſty.

To

To render the honours, therefore, which you derive from birth, truly valuable, you muſt add to them the ſolid ſubſtance of perſonal merit; the permanent luſtre of unaffected patriotiſm.

But I will deſcend from general remarks to particular. I ſuppoſe you at this moment entering on the government. You find a miniſter appointed by your father and beloved by the people. No conduct could be more injurious to yourſelf than to remove him to make room for the leaders of a faction. The faction may, for their own ſelfiſh ends, have courted and obtained your perſonal attachment; but will the nation pardon the diſturbance of public felicity for the gratification of private partiality? I dwell not at preſent on the unfavourable opinion which the nation entertains of the men who compoſe the faction: it is evident to common obſervation that they are held by a great majority in abhorrence.

But, Sir, let me aſk you whether the nation is not flouriſhing in opulence and honour under the adminiſtration of Mr. Pitt? Since the days of his father, has Britannia exhibited a countenance ſo chearful? Can it be patriotiſm to riſque a change of fortune by a change

of

of miniſters? Is there a ſolid reaſon for a change? The nation will not deem perſonal pique or partiality to a faction a ſolid reaſon. And have you any other to aſſign? If you have, let it be proclaimed with the ſound of the trumpet.

Ill are you adviſed when you are perſuaded to exclude Mr. Pitt in the meridian of his glory. The nation will look back with regret on the happineſs of his adminiſtration, and become clamorous for his return. It will be in vain to ſhut the door. The feeble arm of an individual, or a whole party, will not be able to reſiſt the ruſhing multitude, who will force his readmiſſion. He muſt be the miniſter of this country; and thoſe who adviſe his excluſion, are mean enough, for the ſake of their own intereſt, to ſubject you to the diſgrace of contending with your ſubjects and the mortification of a defeat.

Let me intreat you not to begin the exerciſe of your power with an act which muſt preclude the chance of popularity. Mr. Pitt is the favourite of the people, becauſe he deſerves to be ſo. Mr. Fox is deteſted by them for the ſame reaſon. It is your intereſt, it is your duty, to ſacrifice private and perſonal at-

tachment to the will of your people. The people will feel the dignity of your virtue in renouncing your juvenile partialities from a ſenſe of your duty; and, by the detention of Mr. Pitt, you will become, what Mr. Pitt now is, the moſt popular man in the kingdom.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER VII.

SIR.

I Have ſaid that you might become the moſt popular man in the kingdom. I have ſaid, alſo, that, from the advantages afforded by your ſituation, you may become ſo by exertions no leſs eaſy than neceſſary.

The people of England are ready to idolize ſincerity, frankneſs, openneſs of heart, and a conſequent freedom of ſpeech. Stand forward, Sir, then, and make your own public declaration.

ration. Suppoſe you were to addreſs them in the following manner:

"I deplore, with heart-felt affliction, that "misfortune of my father which has cauſed "the reins of government to be placed prema- "turely in my hands; but while I feel as a "ſon for a father, I muſt alſo feel as a *vicarious* "*prince* for his ſubjects now committed to "my care. I enter on the truſt delegated me, "not with any views of ambition or of party, "but with an anxious deſire to promote the "happineſs of the people.

"I have, it is true, been connected with "men whom my father did not think it right "to employ, and who appear to have loſt the "confidence of the nation. But private re- "gards muſt give way when they claſh with "the public intereſt or opinion. I will not "alter what my father ſettled with the moſt "deliberate choice, what the nation approved, "and the wiſdom of which time and events "have fully confirmed. The favourite of the "people ſhall be the favourite of the prince.

"Prejudices may poſſibly have been formed "againſt my character and conduct. I throw "myſelf on the generoſity of the nation, not "doubting but that juvenile errors will find a

"ready pardon from a candid and judicious "people.

"As to the ſubject of marriage, if I have "obeyed the natural impulſe of my heart, who "is there that will be angry? I avow it before "all the world, and am ready to abide by the "conſequences, whatever they may be.

"I want no diſguiſe. I ſcorn the cowar-"dice which ſeeks concealment. Such as I "am, thus as I am circumſtanced, it ſhall be "the ſtudy of my future life to make the "people happy, to diſcourage faction, and "ſupport liberty, commerce, every thing that "can add to the ſtrength, aggrandizement, "and happineſs of the empire.

"I ſhall offend many powerful families at "the head of violent factions by this open "appeal to the people. BUT I MEAN TO "UNITE WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE GOOD "OF ALL AGAINST FACTION, AND TO RE-"LY FOR SUPPORT ON THE MASSY COLUMN "OF THE PEOPLE'S FAVOUR."

I mean not, Sir, to put words into your mouth, or to dictate ſentiments with rude preſumption. But, from the moſt friendly motives, I ſuggeſt, that, if you were to hold ſuch a language to the people of England,

you

you would become their IDOL. No arts of politicians, no violence of faction, would be able to disturb your throne. Every mistake of youth and inexperience would be forgiven and forgotten. You would enter on your regal office with a popularity which no prince has enjoyed since the civilization of the island; and your power would be greater than that of the most arbitrary despot in Europe, for it would be founded on the affections of your empire.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER VIII.

SIR,

"KINGS," says a celebrated author, "may "have weak understandings, bad hearts, "and strong prejudices, a d all these, as it of- "ten happens, inflamed by their passions, and "rendered

" rendered incurable by their ſelf-conceit and " preſumption: ſuch kings are apt to ima- " gine, and they conduct themſelves ſo as to " make many of their ſubjects imagine, that " the king and the people, in free govern- " ments, are RIVAL POWERS, who ſtand in " *competition* with one another, who have " *different intereſts*, and muſt of courſe have " different views; that the rights and pri- " vileges of the people are ſo many ſpoils " taken from the right and prerogative of the " crown; and that the rules and laws made " for the exerciſe and ſecurity of the former, " are ſo many diminutions of their dignity " and reſtraints on their power.

" A patriot king will ſee all this in a far " different and much truer light. He will " diſcern that he can have a right to no more " than is truſted to him by the conſtitution, " and that his people, who had an original " right to the whole by the law of nature, " can have the ſole indefeaſible right to any " part, and really have ſuch a right to that " part which they have reſerved to them- " ſelves."

Thus far Lord Bolingbroke. Now, Sir, a reluctance to ſubmit to the ſalutary reſtraints

of

of the regency implies a doubt of the people's right to impoſe them; a doubt which leads to that unhappy ſtate of the prince's *rivalry* with his people. When the people are taught to view their prince as their competitor for power, they will not be far diſtant from conſidering him as their enemy. He will not, indeed, want a faction to fight on his ſide as a powerful auxiliary; his patronage will always ſecure allies offenſive and defenſive. But, in the mean time, what becomes of the perſonal happineſs of the prince and of the national proſperity? Perpetual feuds and animoſities will harraſs all orders of the people. Weakneſs, diſobedience, diſaffection, will prevail in the army and navy, as well as in the civil departments, and it will be ſingularly fortunate, if diſtant provinces do not revolt, or foreign nations do not ſtrike a blow that will be felt at the very vitals of the body politic.

But, as I began this letter, permit me to conclude it with a quotation from Bolingbroke.

"When a party," ſays he, "is revived or "continued in the ſpirit of faction, the cor- "rupt and infatuated members of it will

"act

" act without any regard to *right or wrong*;
" and they who have aſſerted liberty in one
" reign, or oppoſed invaſions of one kind,
" will give it up in another reign, and abet
" invaſions of another kind; though they
" ſtill diſtinguiſh themſelves by the ſame ap-
" pellation, ſtill ſpread the ſame banner, and
" ſtill deafen their adverſaries and one another
" with the ſame cry. If the national cauſe
" prevails againſt all the wretched arts of cor-
" ruption and diviſion that an obſtinate prince
" and flagitious miniſtry can employ, yet
" will the ſtruggle be long, and the difficul-
" ties, the diſtreſſes, and the dangers great,
" both to the king and to the people. The
" beſt he can hope for in ſuch a caſe will be
" to eſcape with a diminution of his reputa-
" tion, authority, and power. He may be
" expoſed to ſomething worſe; and his ob-
" ſtinacy may force things to ſuch extremi-
" ties, as they who oppoſe him will lament,
" and as the preſervation of liberty and good
" government can alone juſtify. If the
" wretched arts I ſpeak of prevail, faction
" will be propagated through the whole na-
" tion, an ill or well-grounded oppoſition
" will be the queſtion no longer, and the con-

" teſt

" teſt among parties will be *who ſhall govern*;
" not *how they ſhall be governed*. In ſhort,
" univerſal confuſion will follow, and a com-
" plete victory on any ſide will enſlave all
" ſides.

" I have not overcharged the draught.
" Such conſequences muſt follow ſuch a con-
" duct; and, therefore, let me aſk, how much
" more ſafe, more eaſy, more pleaſant, more
" honourable, is it for a prince to correct, if he
" has not prevented, mal-adminiſtration? *that*
" *he may be able to reſt his cauſe on the ſtrength*
" *of the crown, and the concurrence of his*
" *people, whenever any faction preſumes to riſe*
" *in oppoſition to him.*

" This a patriot king will do. He may
" favour one party and diſcourage another
" upon occaſions when the ſtate of his king-
" dom makes ſuch a temporary meaſure ne-
" ceſſary. *But he will eſpouſe none, much*
" *leſs will he proſcribe any.* He will liſt no
" party, much leſs will he do the meaneſt
" and moſt imprudent thing a king can do,
" liſt himſelf in any. It will be his aim to
" purſue true principles of government in-
" dependently of all; and by a ſteady adhe-
" rence to this meaſure, his reign will become

"an undeniable and glorious proof, that a "wise and good prince may UNITE HIS SUB-"JECTS, AND BE HIMSELF THE CENTRE "OF THEIR UNION."

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER IX.

SIR,

EXCUSE me if I descend in this letter to things comparatively little, but not little in their consequences.

I have advised you to value duly and seek carefully the favour of the people. Popularity, in a free country like this, is the best possession which a prince can acquire. It commands every thing which a people can bestow.

But, Sir, this is a country whose happiness depends greatly on the encouragement of its com-

commerce and manufactures, and whatever appears in a prince's conduct injurious to them muſt render him unpopular. Rumour has informed the people that you give a decided preference to the productions of France. Your faſhions of dreſs, of your table, your furniture, are reported to be of French invention or manufacture. Engliſh money taken from the pocket of the Engliſh artiſan, is ſaid to be expended in purchaſing the product of French labour and ingenuity. It is not that the quantity which even a prince, with all his retinue, can uſe, is ſufficient to affect the general proſperity of the national commerce. But the taſte of a prince muſt eſtabliſh a prevailing faſhion; and when the courtiers and nobles, who ſeek your favour, adopt your taſte, as they naturally will do, for French ornaments, French furniture, French food, and French attendants, the injury muſt be felt by thouſands of deſerving, yet ſtarving Engliſhmen.

Beſides, Sir, ſuppoſing that your preference for French articles had no ill effect on trade, yet it argues a contempt for your own nation, and a predilection for a people who have ever been either its open or its ſecret enemies; a

people who have ever been viewed with a jealous eye by the Engliſh, and to whom no Engliſh prince can ſhew excluſive favour without injuſtice.

It would indeed be good policy, as well as a juſt compliment to your ſubjects, not to have a ſingle attendant about your perſon who is not a native of the Britiſh iſles; not to have an article of convenience or luxury which is not the production of the Engliſh loom or workſhop; nor to adopt any manners which are not thoſe of the Engliſh nation. A predilection for your own nation, in your office, is not a narrow, unphiloſophical prejudice. It is a natural attachment ariſing from your relation to it. It is more: it is your duty. Make it, Sir, your pride and your boaſt to be a Briton in your taſte, in your choice of accommodation and ornaments, in your houſes, your equipage, your wardrobe, as well as in your principles and in your heart.

Even if the productions of Britiſh induſtry were inferior in their quality to the foreign ones, it would be wiſdom in you, Sir, to connive at defect, and indulge an amiable partiality for the Britiſh manufacture. Even if Engliſhmen were leſs adroit than Frenchmen in

the

the arts of adorning the perſon, or pleaſing the palate, or decorating the banqueting-room, yet it would be to act a manly part to give up ſomething of this ſervile dexterity, for the ſake of employing, and rendering it faſhionable to employ, none but your fellow countrymen. From whom do you enjoy the reſources neceſſary to ſupport magnificence and gratify the refinements of luxury, but from the purſes of your fellow countrymen?

But, Sir, I venture to doubt whether Engliſh ingenuity is exceeded by France in the production of whatever conduces to the enjoyment and embelliſhment of life. Wonderful improvements have been made in Britain in all that manual ſkill is able to produce. A ſpirit of improvement has pervaded and animated all ranks of artiſans; and, let me add, that a prince's favour would carry them all to their laſt perfection.

I wiſh you would condeſcend to declare in words like the following, whenever the ſycophants around you are recommending the faſhions and productions of France:

"I will have none of them. I am born "an Engliſhman. I am the prince of Eng- "liſhmen. I glory in the country which gave

"me

" me birth. I glory in the people over whom " I rule. I take a pleaſure in the productions " of their ingenuity, and will pride myſelf in " adopting them in my palace and my per- " ſon; externally as well as internally, an Eng- " liſhman; — an Engliſhman at my heart's " core."

By ſuch declarations and ſuch conduct a degree of popularity would be obtained, which no party, no demagogue, no ariſtocratical cabal would be able to diminiſh.

Your example would convert the effeminate nobles of the land. They would become Engliſhmen in deed. They would encourage, with an emulative zeal, thoſe artiſans who often pine without employment, becauſe the caprice of faſhion ſpurns their production. Trade would flouriſh, while private diſtreſs would be alleviated; and the nation would continue to abound more and more in that opulence, which has already appeared in a diſtinguiſhed manner under the preſent PATRIOT MINISTER.

I am, Sir, &c.

LET-

LETTER X.

SIR,

THE ſituation of your father is ſuch as calls forth the compaſſion of the whole nation. Attached to him by loyalty and affection they are now bound to him by the tender ſentiments of pity. They feel for the man independently of the king. They feel for his family. They conſider you as the perſon to whom the Royal ſufferer and his amiable conſort are to look up for ſolace in their affliction. Your FILIAL PIETY is expected to diſplay itſelf on the occaſion with the moſt anxious ſolicitude.

Unwilling to attend to the private whiſper of ſcandal, the people wait to form their judgment of your reverence for your father in ſome overt act. Fame has announced your intentions to diſmiſs the miniſters of your father's choice. Independently of all political conſiderations, they cannot help conſidering this an inſtance of filial diſobedience truly inauſpicious at the com-

commencement of your political career. Perhaps they judge too precipitately, when they ſeem inclined to infer the want of all other amiable and neceſſary virtues from the defect of filial obedience.

Far be it from me, Sir, to penetrate into the private tranſactions of your family, or to diſſeminate whiſpers unfavourable to your character as a ſon; but give me leave to ſay, that the want of reſpect, of ſomething more than reſpect, for a parent; a parent in the diſtreſſing ſituation of your father, furniſhes a very unfavourable preſage. If there is ſuch a want, which I am unwilling to believe, I cannot attribute it to your natural diſpoſition, but to the evil influence of ill-choſen companions.

I know, indeed, that Mr. Sheridan, in his celebrated harangue at the trial of Mr. Haſtings, pronounced a panegyric on filial piety. It formed a ſplendid common place in a ſtudied piece of rhetoric. But I hope it was not a mere ornament; and that he has employed the golden opportunity of aſſociation with you to fill your mind with ſentiments ſo juſt and ſo noble, as he then avowed.

That common liar, common fame, has, indeed, loudly proclaimed that the encomiaſt himſelf

himſelf was not remarkable for the virtue which he eloquently commended. It is more than whiſpered that he *was remarkable for the want of it.* And after all the praiſes beſtowed by him on filial piety, there is reaſon to conclude, that, like many other preachers, he gave the rule, but failed in the example.

Alas, Sir, fine ſpeeches, unaccompanied with good actions, are of little value; and I wiſh you to make it an indiſpenſable condition of admitting men to your familiarity and eſteem, that they ſhould have diſplayed proofs of a good heart, as well as of a good intellect. Bad company and continual diſſipation make dreadful havoc in the virtues of the heart. They deſtroy feeling, and corrupt the moral ſenſe.

If the people have formed ideas derogatory from your filial piety, whether right or wrong, thoſe ideas will operate moſt injuriouſly on your popularity. A generous people muſt hate and deſpiſe a prince who can behave even with *indifference* to his SIRE, labouring under the misfortune of a mental derangement. They would be apt to claſs him with monſters of depravity, and apprehend, in his perſon, the revival of a Nero.

I fear, Sir, that the projected change of men

and meaſures approved and ſettled by your father, will tend to confirm the reports which the malicious are but too ready to propagate.

Beware, Sir, leſt you ſhould be duped by the artifices of an ambitious and an indigent party, who, hungering and thirſting after power and emolument, care not into what miſchief they plunge you, provided they can ſatiate their voracious appetites *. They would ſee you forfeit the eſteem of the whole nation, provided they could raiſe themſelves to a degree of formidable power, tending to reduce you, Sir, to a ſtate of total unpopularity, or of abſolute inſignificance.

You would do right to conſider yourſelf as a TRUSTEE bound to manage affairs according to the will of the principal for whom you act. In the preſent caſe that will may be accurately collected from what he did himſelf previouſly to his morbid incapacity. He appointed, he continued Mr. Pitt. He tacitly commands you to continue him, and your diſobedience muſt be offenſive to him on his reſtoration to ſanity, as it muſt at preſent ſully your character among a loyal and compaſſionate people.

I am, Sir, &c.

* The public perfectly underſtand the patriotiſm of a Wedderburne, a Watſon, &c.

LETTER XI.

SIR,

IT has commonly been the misfortune of princes to be ſurrounded by perſons of a character and diſpoſition moſt injurious to their virtue. The public are of opinion that the misfortune is yours at this moment. They are willing to attribute every thing in your conduct which has diſpleaſed them, to the aſſociates who have artfully inſinuated themſelves into your familiarity.

They expect, at this important criſis, that you ſhould diſcard them. The ſacrifice may be painful, but it is neceſſary. Uſeful truth will never reach your ear while you are ſurrounded by flatterers. Men of grave characters, true virtue, and ſolid wiſdom, are kept at a diſtance by a crew, with whom to be connected, in habits of intimacy, would be attended with infamy. But, Sir, without the eſteem and the cordial intimacy of virtuous and wiſe men, how can you perform the duties of

a prince? The character which you are now to aſſume is as ſerious, as it is important. The Falſtaffs, the Bardolphs, and the Piſtols, muſt not interfere in it. The nation will not, ought not to bear it. Sir, you *muſt* of neceſſity bid them farewell, if you value either your peace or your honour. Their neceſſities may be provided for decently; but their company muſt be ſhunned.

You know, Sir, I have already, in the zeal of my good affection for you, declared, that I wiſh to ſee your name otherwiſe diſtinguiſhed in hiſtory than by a chronological table. I wiſh you to be great, not only in rank, but in perſonal merit. It is impoſſible you ſhould be ſo, if you chuſe companions known only in the inglorious annals of the turf and at the gaming-table.

This nation has to boaſt an illuſtrious race of nobility; and an illuſtrious order of commoners, noble in every thing but a title. Are they ſo deficient in companionable qualities, in the knowledge, and virtues, which ſhould recommend them to a prince, that you ſhould be compelled to ſeek aſſociates from a herd of needy adventurers, diſtinguiſhed as little by principle as by property?

The

The beſt part of the nation, the ancient nobles, the virtuous and opulent commoners, the learned and the meritorious in every profeſſion of life, feel an honeſt indignation to find their prince neglecting them all, to ſhew excluſive favour to thoſe who are beſt praiſed by a tender ſilence. Nor let it be ſuppoſed that their indignation will terminate in ſentiment. It will be exhibited in murmurs and active diſcontent; ſuch as muſt render a crown uneaſy to the brow that wears it. No pleaſures of convivial gaiety can compenſate the evils reſulting from the loſt eſteem of the moſt reſpectable members of the community.

The indignation will not be confined to the great: the lower orders ſee and feel what becomes a prince, and are diſguſted at the violation of public decorum.

It is, indeed, Sir, neceſſary to diſmiſs ſuch companions as degrade your dignity by their approach. Nothing great and glorious can enter your mind while they are ſuffered to cloſe the avenues of it by folly and levity. They will teach you in time to laugh at the very name of virtue. They will teach you to recline in indolence, or to be active in unprincely employment, not to ſay in vicious exceſſes.

They

They would teach you, if you were not guarded by the goodneſs of your nature, to neglect every kingly duty, and ſpend a voluptuous and effeminate life in the vile indulgencies of a corrupted court. They will hang, Sir, like a dead weight upon your virtue. Let it drop, and you will emerge to glory.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER XII.

SIR,

I AM not vain enough to imagine that any thing I can advance will influence your mind to prevent a change in the adminiſtration. Yet I perſevere in ſubmitting to you my ſentiments upon the ſubject; becauſe to omit it, would be to omit one of the principal objects of the addreſſes which I have thus preſumed to offer. Hints, which fail in preſent circum-

circumſtances, may produce effects in futurity. Caſſandra propheſied, though none regarded.

A good prince can be incited by no motive to change his miniſters, but a full conviction that the change will be beneficial to the nation. But, Sir, are you *in your conſcience* convinced that the excluſion of Mr. Pitt, and the admiſſion of Mr. Fox, will be thus beneficial?

I ſhall treat Mr. Fox with that perſonal reſpect, as an individual, which is due to a gentleman, and one whom many reſpectable perſons, both in parliament and out of it, greatly eſteem. But, Sir, I am free to affirm that the general opinion of him is unfavourable. The extravagancies of his private conduct I do not dwell upon; though I muſt take the liberty to obſerve, that the private conduct affords ſome of the leaſt fallible marks of the real diſpoſition. The public, under the direction of that good ſenſe which uſually diſtinguiſhes the public mind, do not always ſeparate between the political and private character. The public plainly conſider Mr. Fox as a libertine in principle and practice. This gives them, *a priori*, no favourable idea of his FIRMNESS and HONESTY. When they turn to his public conduct as a miniſter, and as a leader of a party, they find their

unfavourable

unfavourable prepoſſeſſions but too well eſtabliſhed. As a miniſter, they obſerve him acting with raſhneſs; as a member of parliament, with inconſiſtency. The coalition with Lord North, the India bill, and the declaration of your right to aſſume the regency without parliamentary adjudication or appointment, are ſtanding facts which no ſophiſtry can evade; are facts of ſuch unprincipled inconſiſtency, temerity, and folly, as muſt prevent the people of England, while in poſſeſſion of common ſenſe and common honeſty, from ever REPOSING CONFIDENCE IN MR. FOX.

Ambition in great ſtateſmen is natural and laudable; but the ambition of Mr. Fox appears to the nation to ſeek its end without regard to the means, without regard to thoſe virtues which alone can render men eſtimable. For the ſake of power, he is a whig in profeſſion and a tory in practice, aſſuming the name of the *man of the people*, and acting againſt the people as an advocate for a prince's aſſumption of rights unclaimed by the prince himſelf and unacknowledged by the people. Inconſiſtencies of this ſort, I ſay, ſeem to argue the want of the virtues which alone can render a man eſtimable as a MAN. For how can he deſerve eſteem, who,

who, in the purſuit of a ſelfiſh purpoſe, ſacrifices truth, principle, promiſes, firmneſs, conſiſtency, and his own moſt vehement declarations? I repeat, that ſuch a character can never poſſeſs the confidence of good citizens.

That he ſhould poſſeſs your confidence is matter of grief to the beſt members of the community. Experience will probably ſoon admoniſh you to withdraw it; for, depend upon it, he cannot continue long in official employment: the national ſpirit will forbid it.

It is true that you may diſſolve the parliament in the hope of ſecuring a majority to Mr. Fox. But ſuch is the eſteem in which Mr. Pitt is held, that, notwithſtanding the influence of the court, and the cruelty and artifice of *factious electioneering*, there is every reaſon to believe that a diſſolution of the parliament will increaſe the numbers who have nobly ſupported him.

But, Sir, let me pauſe a moment to deplore the wretched conteſt in which you are likely to be involved with your people. To take the lead of a deſpiſed faction againſt the ſenſe of thoſe whoſe opinion ſhould operate with you as a rule of conduct, muſt render you, what I have earneſtly deprecated, completely unpo-

pular: a wretched commencement of executive power! To gratify Mr. Fox and his adherents, you barter your own good reception among your ſubjects, and, together with it, the national tranquillity and your own.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER XIII.

SIR,

THE nation cannot conſider an ability to make a fine ſpeech, after much labour and premeditation, once or twice in the courſe of a year, a ſufficient recommendation to a prince's particular favour. Yet they attribute, in their moſt candid judgments, your apparent attachment to Mr. Sheridan, to your admiration of his eloquence.

As a man of abilities, as a man of wit, as the author of an ingenious comedy, farce, and pantomime, I reſpect Mr. Sheridan. But I do

I do not think him a character, take him for all in all, ſo ſingularly admirable as to entitle him to be ſelected from all the Lords and Commons of this realm. as your CONFIDENTIAL FAVOURITE.

The prejudices of the world are rather unfavourable to his private character. His wants and his profuſion are ſuppoſed by your people to render his political virtue unfit for public confidence.

They view him, whether juſtly or not, as a needy adventurer ready to bring his abilities to the beſt market. They augur ill of a government which is to rely on ſuch men as the main pillars of it. They would have no diſlike to your ſelection of a man ſo able, as a literary companion in the hours of elegant converſation, but they murmur at the idea of beſtowing on him, till he is farther tried, offices of truſt and honour, while patricians and commoners of experienced merit, whoſe ſervices claim reward, remain unemployed and unhonoured.

The encouragement of ſuch men as the Romans denominated *new men*, I hold extremely favourable to political and all other virtue. But then they ſhould receive encouragement becauſe of their virtue, and as a reward of it.

The virtue ſhould firſt appear. The world are yet to learn what noble and patriotic exertions can give to Mr. Sheridan the firſt place in your confidence. When he ſhall have proceeded farther in his political courſe, and ſerved his country by truly patriotic labours, neither the ſlave of a miniſtry, nor the tool of a faction, then receive him into favour, enrich him with emoluments, and load him with civil honour. But at preſent he is not ripe for ſuch diſtinctions from the prince; and your particular favour to him will not fail to excite a jealouſy inimical to your peace.

I voluntarily decline to enlarge on his character; for I favour his abilities, and think him capable of becoming an uſeful politician in a ſubordinate rank, if he ſhould remain unſpoiled by the corruption of a court and the malignity of a deſperate party. All I mean by mentioning him, is to give you the people's idea of him, and to admoniſh you that a partiality for him, ſuch a partiality as may render him your MINION, will be, in the preſent conjuncture, fatal to your popularity.

Lord North and Mr. Burke are the other leaders of the party which it is ſaid you intend to patronize. Of Lord North I ſhall ſay little.

tle. Fallen as he is from greatneſs, and afflicted with a bodily misfortune, he is an object of compaſſion. Malice itſelf, accompanied with the leaſt particle of generoſity, would ſcorn to inſult him in his adverſity. It is ſufficient for my argument that he has loſt the nation's confidence, and is therefore unworthy of yours.

Of Mr. Burke I reverence the character, and I ſincerely hope you will reward the labours of his long political life with eaſe and dignity. I venerate him as a man of uncommon genius. I lament that ſuch a man ſhould be driven by circumſtances, not eaſily avoided, to the narrow character of a party advocate. Even as an advocate for a party, he ſeems at preſent to be little valued; for he is heard in the houſe with impatience. Diſmiſs him, then, to *eaſe*; as you would turn out a good old horſe to a fertile paſture for life.

Solve ſeneſcentem maturè ſanus equum, ne
Peccet ad extremum RIDENDUS —— HOR.

I am aware that theſe men have been the INSTRUMENTS which great families have uſed to bring them into power. They have been the pioneers to the regiment, which waited aloof to take poſſeſſion of the fortreſs. They have

have borne the burthen and heat of the day, and ought to be rewarded by their employers. But no reverence is due from you, Sir, to theſe great and powerful families. They have meant only to bring themſelves forward. Neither need you to ſtand in awe of them. Rich as they are, and armed with corrupt influence, they can never make a ſtand againſt you with the people on your ſide. The prince and people united muſt ever form an impenetrable phalanx.

The ſcope and purpoſe of all that I have offered is to urge you to a FULL AND UNBOUNDED CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PEOPLE; to a total diſregard of all PARTIES, whether ariſtocratical or democratical. The prince and the people have naturally and neceſſarily a common intereſt, THE PUBLIC GOOD. The factious mean nothing more, deny it as they may, diſguiſe it as they pleaſe, but the gratification of avarice and pride. Diſappoint them, and they will be angry, it is true. They will endeavour to controul and harraſs your government. But their reſiſtance will be, in the end, like the rebellion of the fallen angels againſt Heaven. The united arm of prince and people will overthrow them completely,

and

and hurl them to the perdition which their apoſtacy will have deſerved.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER XIV.

SIR,

I HAVE named the perſons whom you ſhould not favour, if you duly regard your popularity and the welfare of your country. On the other hand, I heſitate not a moment to point out the man whoſe talents you ought to employ, whoſe virtues you ſhould encourage, and whoſe friendſhip you ſhould cultivate. It is the man appointed by your royal father. The national acclamations already echo the name of PITT! At the very ſound——PATRIOTISM riſes from her ſeat to pay the tribute of obeiſance.

It is

It is agreed, both at home and abroad, that the political horizon of Britain never ſhone with a more glorious luminary. The eyes of the whole nation are turned to it with wonder; and if you, Sir, do not ſee the brightneſs of it, the world, I fear, will deem the blindneſs voluntary.

But, Sir, I mean not to write an adulatory panegyric. I will aſſert plain truth in plain language. Probity, diſintereſtedneſs, great abilities, great ſpirit, great eloquence, talents for buſineſs—theſe are the qualities of Mr. Pitt. His conduct has evinced it. They ſpeak for themſelves. They want no recommendation. They defy all the ſhafts of factious malice, ſtimulated by envy and by hunger.

I wiſh you, Sir, (though I know the imbecillity of wiſhes) to adopt him as your miniſter, and to make a virtue of neceſſity. Your miniſter he muſt be in a ſhort time. As he will be diſmiſſed without a fault, and in the zenith of his glory, the people will inſiſt on his recall. I do not ſay that they will interfere irregularly or unconſtitutionally; but they will return to parliament ſuch a majority of repreſentatives to favour his cauſe, that the deſigns of *the faction* in place muſt be clog-

ged

ged by an irreſiſtible as well as virtuous oppoſition.

I am anxious—not for the intereſt of Mr. Pitt—not for the intereſt of Mr. Fox—not for the intereſt of any private perſon; but for the prince and for the nation. Convinced that it is the intereſt of both that Mr. Pitt ſhould continue to be the miniſter of government, I would give my feeble vote, if it would avail any thing, for his detention in office. Your perſonal and your official welfare and happineſs appear to me to be concerned in it. The people call upon you for it with a voice that reſounds, at this moment, through the empire.

With ſuch a perſuaſion I ſhould not have done the duty of a good citizen, if I had not freely and warmly urged the expediency, the neceſſity of continuing a miniſter, who has not forfeited his claim to a continuance of his truſt by a ſingle inſtance of miſconduct. Depend upon it, Sir, he ſets, not like a meteor to be extinguiſhed in a miſt, but like the ſun to riſe with freſh effulgence.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER XV.

SIR,

I AM ſenſible I need make no apology for concluding* my addreſſes to you. I cannot flatter myſelf that they will be perfectly agreeable to you, even if I were vain enough to ſuppoſe that you will honour them with your notice.

But give me leave ſolemnly to declare that I am well affected to you, and that my ſole endeavour, in this officious enterprize, is to contribute my mite, in my generation, to yours and the public proſperity. Let me as ſolemnly declare, that I am unconnected with any party, and that what I have ſaid, I may have ſaid impertinently and erroneouſly, but not from ſordid, ſelfiſh, or factious incitements.

——— * In publica commoda peccem,
Si LONGO ſermone morer tua tempora, Cæſar.
HOR.

Placed

Placed among the people, I have endeavoured to collect the ſentiments of the people. I have collected them, (for to diſcover them was eaſy,) and I have preſented them to you with the frank ſincerity of one who glories in the name and privileges of an Engliſhman. I beg it may be remembered, that, where I ſpeak in the firſt perſon, I mean, for the moſt part, to ſpeak in the name of the people.

That my addreſſes may be productive of ſome good to you, Sir, and to my fellow-countrymen; and that your RULE, whether as a regent, or as a king, whenever it ſhall pleaſe the King of Kings to make the throne vacant, may be ſingularly happy and honourable, is the ſincere wiſh of one who has the honour to ſubſcribe himſelf,

Your dutiful and devoted ſervant,

A MAN OF KENT.

FINIS.